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storing an address, the address having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion comprised of a regular expression representing an attribute of a plurality of source device addresses.

16. (Amended) A management information base comprising a management object for storing [a] an address having a first portion comprising a regular expression representing an attribute of at least one address, and a second portion comprising bits of the at least one address.

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and below remarks. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Beser, U.S. Patent No. 6,189,102.

Beser, U.S. Pat. No. 6,189,102

Beser describes a method and apparatus for storing cable modem network addresses and the customer premise equipment network addresses in a table on a cable modem termination system. The customer premise network address is stored in the table when it receives the address during execution of the DHCP protocol. The address in the table is used to authenticate subsequent requests received by customer equipment to ensure that no rogue equipment may retrieve data from the cable modem termination system.

In a passage referred to by the Examiner, at column 35, Beser describes associating a unique identifier with each IP address of the customer premise equipment, and storing that unique identifier in the table.

Claim 1, as amended, is now patentably distinct over Beser, which neither describes nor suggests "...A method for representing addressing information in a communication system,

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the method comprising *apportioning at least one address into a first portion and a second portion, and encoding the first portion of the at least one address using a regular expression representing an attribute of the first portion of the address and using the regular expression in place of the first portion at least one address...*"

In the passage cited by the Examiner, Beser describes only the provision of a unique identifier corresponding to the entire address, but neither describes nor suggests the claimed steps. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentably distinct over Beser, and the rejection should be withdrawn. Claim 4 serves to further limit claim 1 and is therefore allowable with claim 1.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Beser in view of Ankney, U.S. patent 5,113,499.

Claims 5, 7-12, 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Beser in view of Belser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,1541,324).

Claims 8, 9, 11, 15, 16 were rejected for reasons similar to those put forth with the other claims.

Ankney, U.S. Patent 5,113,499:

Ankney describes a security access management system for a packet switched data communications network, that has an access management apparatus associated with the packet switches at each entry point of the network. In one example, Ankney describes the use of the X.121 numeric address.

Belser, U.S. Patent No. 6,151,324

Belser describes a method and apparatus for connection oriented switching wherein a pre-established path is established between a selected pair of an ingress switch and an egress switch. In one embodiment, the destination address and source address fields of a MAC frame data are replaced with a virtual path which identifies the pre-established path between the ingress and egress switch, to form a virtual circuit.

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Combination neither describes nor suggests the claimed invention

As described above with regard to claim 1, the independent claims of the present application have been amended to more clearly recite what is to be claimed in the present invention. For example, Applicant has amended claim 8 to recite "...A network device comprising a storage for storing at least one address, *wherein the at least one address comprises a first portion and a second portion, and wherein the first portion is represented as a regular expression, the regular expression representing an attribute of the first portion of the at least one address*".

Applicant has also amended independent claim 15 to recite "... An address configuration table ... comprising an address configuration table entry storing an address, the address having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion comprised of a regular expression representing an attribute of a plurality of source device addresses..." Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite "... A management information base comprising a management object for storing an address having a first portion comprising a regular expression representing an attribute of at least one address, and a second portion comprising bits of the at least one address..."

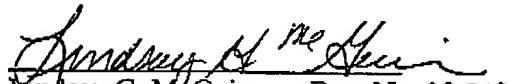
Applicant submits that these amendments clearly distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art cited by the Examiner, such as Beser, which describes using domain names in place of addresses, or Ankney, which describes using a mnemonic in place of an address, or even Belser, which uses virtual circuit identifiers in place of an address, as these references *all* recite replacing the *entire* address with the domain name/mnemonic/identifier.

Accordingly, all of the independent claims are patentably distinct over the combination of the references. In addition, the dependent claims, which serve to provide further patentable limitations over the cited prior art, are patentable for at least the reasons put forth with regard to their parent claims.

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Accordingly, in view of these amendments, Applicants submit that the objections have been overcome, and should be withdrawn, allowing all pending claims to issue. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,


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